

PRESERVATION OF BODY PROTEIN

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of preserving bodily protein stores such as skeletal muscle mass in a catabolic patient involves the concomitant administration (a)  $\alpha$ -KG and/or  $\alpha$ -KGA and (b) ammonium in amounts effective to preserving skeletal muscle. Also disclosed is the combination of a first pharmaceutical composition comprising  $\alpha$ -KG and/or  $\alpha$ -KGA in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a second pharmaceutical composition comprising ammonium in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in amounts effective to preserving skeletal muscle.